



Grovespring Elementary School

District: Hartville R-II School District

Enrollment: 106

Grade Range: K-6



Building Principal: Mrs. Kathy Claxton

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Grovespring Elementary at a Glance...

Grovespring Elementary School is “a little school that packs a big punch.” Each morning as the leaders of tomorrow parade through the doors, the principal greets them with a smile and words of encouragement for an exceptional day. On special days, the Title I reading and math specialist might be galloping through the halls on her stick horse, dressed in cowboy gear, “rounding up good readers” and rewarding them with “Buckaroo Bucks.”

Reverend Randall R. McBride, Jr.’s words of inspiration, “Success will not lower its standard to us. We must raise our standard to success,” reflect the atmosphere at Grovespring. Success is expected at Grovespring Elementary, and motivation for success is apparent all through the building. The brick school, built in 1961, is adorned with bright banners, stimulating pictures, and colorful posters reminding the students that they are the building blocks in the foundation of tomorrow. A memorial plaque pays homage to people who played a vital role in bringing the school together. Down the main hall, student work is proudly displayed. Local newspaper articles are on exhibit year round for students to observe and take pride in the accomplishments of the student body. Throughout the school, the walls are covered with reminders of the school’s mottos that “The future is built one student at a time,” and that “Together, we make a difference.”

Grovespring’s 106 students come from primarily low-income rural homes where 70 percent of all students participate in the free and reduced lunch program. Sixteen certified faculty members, as well as the support staff, motivate K-6 students to succeed and “make a difference”.

Grovespring Elementary’s mission: To provide a positive, caring, and safe atmosphere for the intellectual, social, physical and moral development of every student.

A Learning Community Working Toward Common Goals

Grovespring teachers, administrators, students, parents, and community members worked collaboratively to conceive the school’s mission. Members of this learning community are motivated to

be leaders in achievement and academic progress. High expectations prevail at Grovespring Elementary. Each morning, all students stand together for a school-wide ritual of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, which is led by a sixth grade student. Many classrooms also start their day with a grade level chant or song encouraging group responsibility and positive attitudes. These early morning activities set a positive tone for each day and provide the foundation for the positive, caring atmosphere that is Grovespring Elementary School.

Grovespring Elementary teachers and students are committed to a rigorous academic program highlighted by teamwork and innovative programming. Data analysis, followed by high quality professional development, allows Grovespring Elementary instructors to teach with precision and confidence. With the integration of technology and active learning, teachers provide their students with outstanding educational opportunities. Students create PowerPoint presentations, assemble biome environments, create representations of the phases of the moon, construct life-size Revolutionary War heroes, witness eggs hatching, and create family heritage albums. Students also take part in “buddy reading,” Christmas caroling on the radio, discussion with the Highway Patrol about “stranger danger,” cooking experiences, and writing columns for the *Grovespring Gazette*. Collectively, these extraordinary events prepare students for their future.

“IN THEIR OWN WORDS...”

- **“...when students feel they are an important part of their school and community, they are more likely to stay in school.”**
- **“Grovespring Elementary School’s culture mirrors that of home and family.”**
- **“Grovespring Elementary takes great pride in providing its students with an education that exemplifies the standards recommended by current knowledge and research-based philosophies.”**

School as the Heart of the Community

Grovespring Elementary School is the heart of the tiny rural town of Grovespring. The town is too small to be incorporated, but its members offer their unwavering support to the school. Each year, community members perform at the annual fall carnival and donate items for an auction. Auction items often sell for far more than their value with the bidder’s knowledge that every dollar will be spent to enhance educational opportunities for Grovespring students. A local church provides a Christmas gift, such as a warm stocking cap or a pair of gloves, to each child in the school. Community members flood the school to offer support in times of tragedy. This village truly strives to do its part in helping to raise each child.

Grovespring students take pride in giving back to the community that supports them so generously. Students have donated Christmas gifts to disadvantaged families, personal care items to nursing home residents, care packages to soldiers and children, and clothes and toys to the Wright County Children’s Home. This giving spirit contributes to the community’s success, as well as the school’s.

“GOLD STAR” PRACTICES

- **Students in upper grades use “Think Sheets” and “Hot Sheets” to reflect on mistakes and recognize better choices.**
- **Fourth and fifth grade classes are working with community members to design an outdoor classroom that will include nine different garden areas and six learning stations.**
- **Every Grovespring staff member participates on a “Map Team” that analyzes MAP data and researches best teaching practices to improve student achievement.**

True to their slogan, “Building successful futures, one child at a time,” students emerge from Grovespring Elementary equipped for success and ready to make a difference.